



VIRGINIA COMMISSION ON YOUTH

Study of Career and Technical Education Advisory Group Meeting

CTE Resource Center
2002 Bremo Road
Henrico, Virginia
November 23, 2009
10:00 a.m.

MINUTES

Attending:

Anne Wescott, Michelle Vucci, Brenda Long, Peggy Watson, Barry Glenn, John Ledgerwood, Deborah Hinton, Gloria Westerman, Michael Matthews, Elizabeth Russell, Kathy Barrant, Joseph Johnson, Achsah Carrier, Ronnie Gill

Attending Electronically:

Angie Gutenson, Alice Scott

Monitoring:

Meredith Gunter, Stella Edwards, Debbie Kilpatrick, Virginia PTA

Guest

Scott Kemp, VCCS

Staff Attending:

Amy M. Atkinson and Leah Hamaker

I. Welcome and Introductions

Amy M. Atkinson, Executive Director

Ms. Atkinson welcomed the members of the Advisory Group to the meeting. She informed the members that this meeting was the final meeting for the study year. The findings and recommendations that emerged from the Regional Roundtables, as well as other recommendations compiled and developed by staff would be discussed today. She stated that the recommendations would then be revised to incorporate suggestions received at this meeting. After a public comment period, the recommendations would be shared with the members of the Commission on Youth scheduled for Monday December 7 at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Atkinson reminded the members of the Advisory Group that this meeting was open to the public and everyone was invited to attend. At this meeting, the recommendations would be voted on by the members of the Commission.

Ms. Atkinson informed the members of the Advisory Group that they would receive the timeline for public comment period via email and that Ms. Hamaker would ensure that the recommendations discussed today would be reviewed and approved by the Advisory Group prior to the public comment period. She thanked everyone for their continued participation and assistance with this very important initiative. Ms. Atkinson thanked all of the Advisory Group members who helped coordinate the Regional Roundtables including Linda Dorr, John

Ledgerwood, Kathy Morrison, and Brenda Long. She also thanked Mike Matthews for attending all of the Roundtable meetings.

II. Presentation of Draft Findings and Recommendations

Advisory Group Discussion

Ms. Hamaker provided the Advisory Group an opportunity to comment on the Commission's recommendations.

Note: The Advisory Group offered suggestions and refinements to the draft recommendations. All of the suggestions were incorporated in the final recommendations. The Advisory Group comments are in blue.

Finding – Addressing Industry Credentials in Virginia's Career and Technical Education (CTE) program

Recommendations

1. Request the Department of Education, through the Board of Education's Career Advisory Committee, include in its Vision for CTE a plan to work with local CTE advisory committees to educate the business community of the benefits of industry certifications, including NOCTI certifications.

The Advisory Group suggested changing "request" to "support" and Michelle Vucci with the Department of Education stated she would send some language to reflect the Department of Education's current efforts addressing this finding.

2. Request the Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System (VCCS), and the Virginia Career Pathways System Working Group, identify those credentials and certificates which are valued by business and industry, as well those which are not valued, and are appropriate for inclusion in Virginia's CTE Program. A report on the status of this review will be submitted to the Virginia Commission on Youth, the Board of Education and the Council on Career and Technical Education prior to the 2011 General Assembly Session.

The Advisory Group suggested sending this recommendation to the Secretary of Education and asked that "Program" be changed to "Pathways".

Finding – Virginia's Workplace Readiness Skills (WRS) Exam

Recommendations

1. Support the Department of Education's efforts to update to Virginia's WRS and test revision. Request that the status of the update to the WRS, and its accompanying assessment instrument, be shared by the Department of Education to Virginia's network of CTE Directors during all upcoming conferences and trainings.

The Advisory Group requested that the Commission introduce a formal resolution during the 2010 General Assembly Session. It was also suggested that Virginia's school counselors and CTE administrators be informed of the update and that the Department report on the progress of this revision.

2. Request the current and future versions of the Virginia WRS assessment, that are Virginia industry validated and state Board of Education approved, be eligible for reimbursement through the funds currently available for the cost of student-obtained industry credentials, regardless of the current or future tests verified or non-verified credit status.

The Advisory Group felt that this recommendation was no longer needed and suggested it be removed.

Finding – Virginia’s Career Readiness Certification (CRC) in Virginia’s CTE programs

Recommendations

1. Request that the VCCS, the Virginia Workforce Council and the Department of Education integrate the CRC with, the WRS and Academic and Career Plans for K-12 in Virginia, as appropriate.

The Advisory Group suggested that the Commission omit the WRS and K-12. It was also suggested that the CRC be included with Virginia’s Career Pathways.

2. Request that the Department of Education include the Virginia CRC on the Board of Education’s approved list of industry credentials for Virginia CTE programs.

The Advisory Group requested that this recommendation be omitted.

Finding – Virginia’s Education Model, CTE and the Labor Market

The Advisory Group suggested that the success of Virginia’s Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Academies be discussed in this Finding.

Recommendations

1. Support the Board of Education’s Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee’s efforts to advocate and market CTE.

The Advisory Group supported this recommendation.

2. Request that the Department of Education include in the revisions to the Parent’s Guide R U Ready more detailed information on labor force realities and the benefits of CTE for students.

The Advisory Group suggested changing “request” to “support”.

3. Request that the Department of Education consider sharing the R U Ready Guide for Students, which shares information about educational opportunities for students while in high school, with student during their sophomore, rather than junior year.

The Advisory Group supported this recommendation.

4. Request that the Virginia Association of School Guidance Counselors and Virginia PTA/PTSO include information on Virginia’s rising labor force needs, as well as the benefits of Virginia’s CTE programs, in all trainings, newsletters or other appropriate media.

The Advisory Group corrected the name of the Virginia Association of School Guidance Counselors to the Virginia School Counselor Association. The Advisory Group asked that this message also be shared with parents of children entering school for the first time.

5. Request the Virginia Workforce Investment Council, and the local workforce boards, work with local school divisions to communicate the value of Virginia’s CTE programs.

The Advisory Group suggested changing “request” to “support.”

6. Request the Department of Education include in the training materials and curriculum for the Academic and Career Plans, the value of apprenticeships for students (Finding #8 discusses Academic and Career Plans).
7. Request the Department of Education include in the training materials and curriculum for the Academic and Career Plans, the value of skilled trades for students. (Finding #8 discusses Academic and Career Plans).
8. Request the Department of Education include in the in the training materials and curriculum for the Academic and Career Plans, information to both students and parents for the rising need for an industry credential or certification to be prepared for the workforce. (Finding #8 discusses Academic and Career Plans).

The Advisory Group suggested combining Recommendations 6, 7 and 8.

The Advisory Group suggested that staff develop a recommendation to support the Department of Education's efforts to promote public-private partnerships which offer real-world experiences to students such as 4-H, Junior Achievement and AG in the Classroom. The Advisory Group also suggested that a recommendation be included to support the Department of Education's efforts to promote Governor's Career and Technical Academies and STEM.

Finding – Confusion in Dual-Enrollment in Virginia's CTE

Recommendations

1. Request the Chancellor of the VCCS provide guidelines on the dual enrollment process for Virginia's CTE programs, including clarification on the credentials needed by CTE instructors to satisfy dual enrollment requirements. Request that once these guidelines are completed by VCCS, that they be shared with the Department of Education and the Board of Education's Advisory Council for CTE, the Virginia CTE Resource Center and the Virginia Association for Career and Technical Education (VACTE).

The Advisory Group advised staff that it was clarification on the credential needed by instructors, not the dual enrollment process. Commission staff stated that this recommendation would be revised to reflect that concern.

2. Request an update on the status of the work of the HJR 125 Task Force (2004) on the development of a template for statewide articulation agreements for CTE. The status update will also include information on the barriers of establishing statewide articulation agreements in Virginia's CTE program areas, as well as the costs of implementing such a template.

The Advisory Group suggested that the barriers and feasibility of developing such agreements be included. It was noted that, in order for this to take place, General Assembly action was needed.

Finding – CTE and the Availability of Instructors

Recommendations

1. Request the Virginia's Teacher Education programs share information about the shortage of CTE teachers with its prospective students.
2. Request that Board of Education's Advisory Committee, include in the Vision for CTE, a plan to address teacher shortages, including recruiting of teachers and involvement by the local CTE advisory committees.

The Advisory Group suggested changing "request" to "support" in both of these recommendations.

Finding – Effectiveness of Virginia’s Career Coaches

Recommendations

1. Support the VCCS Career Coaches program and request the Virginia Association of School Superintendents include information on the effectiveness of the Virginia Career Coach Program in upcoming conferences and trainings, as appropriate.

The Advisory Group suggested that the continuation and expansion of the Career Coach program be included in this recommendation. It was also suggested that the Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals and the Virginia School Boards Association be included in this recommendation.

Finding – Personal Academic and Career Plans (ACP) and the Virginia Education Wizard

Recommendations

1. Support the Department of Education and the VCCS plan to integrate and implement the ACP with the Virginia Education Wizard.
2. Request that the Department of Education include in upcoming trainings and training materials information on how Virginia’s Career Coaches can assist in the implementation of the ACP, as well as encouraging school divisions to establish partnerships with the VCCS to support the Career Coaches.

The Advisory Group suggested changing “request” to “support.”

Finding – Students with Disabilities and Participation in CTE Programs

Recommendation

1. Request the Board of Education’s State Special Education Advisory Committee address barriers to appropriate placements of special education students into CTE programs by developing (or sharing) written guidelines for use by school personnel.

The Advisory Group suggested changing “special education students” to “students with special needs”.

III. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned. Ms. Atkinson thanked the Advisory Group for their participation. She reminded the members that staff would email the revised recommendations to the Advisory Group once the revisions and suggestions were incorporated.

The Advisory Group meeting adjourned at approximately 11:50 a.m.

This was an electronic meeting, with the following remote locations:

Chantilly
Angie Gutenson
Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.
14120 Parke Long Court, Suite 111
703-968-6205

Richmond
Office of Alice Scott
Virginia Manufacturers Association
830 East Main Street, Suite 2000
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